

# City Snapshot



Fall 2012

## Don't Text & Drive

You've probably seen it; a fellow driver looking down at a cell phone as they attempt to steer a moving three-ton vehicle and chat with their fingers at the same time. It's a dangerous combination that puts pedestrians, bicyclists, other drivers and your loved ones at risk. The Fargo Police Department is cracking down on distracted driving, which according to Fargo City Ordinance 08-0321 includes all forms of electronic messaging such as texting, e-mailing, instant messaging and surfing the web. A violation of this ordinance carries a \$100 fine.



"Would you really want anyone to do this while driving? Neither would we. Our officers are working hard to make sure drivers are following the law", says Fargo Police Sgt. Ryan Dorrheim.

Dorrheim encourages you to lead by example and talk with your kids and young drivers about the dangers of distracted driving. If you're not sure how to talk about

it, visit [www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov), a Web site that shares facts and stats, the faces and tragic stories of distracted driving and educational videos.

In August, Fargo Police began a crackdown on texting while driving. 17 citations were given in the first week. Dorrheim says there will be more crackdown events in the future.

*Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent - at 55 mph - of driving the length of an entire football field, blind. (Source: USDOT)*



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[LinkedIn company page: City of Fargo](https://linkedin.com/company/city-offargo)

## Convenience Fees Eliminated [www.cityoffargo.com/payonline](http://www.cityoffargo.com/payonline)



You can now pay City of Fargo utility bills and parking tickets online, at no extra cost. The \$2.95 convenience fee has been eliminated. To pay online, visit [www.cityoffargo.com/payonline](http://www.cityoffargo.com/payonline). Parking

tickets and utility bills may also be paid via telephone or in person. Below are brief descriptions of how our payment services work:

### Online

The City of Fargo accepts online payments for parking tickets and utility bills at [www.cityoffargo.com/payonline](http://www.cityoffargo.com/payonline). Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards are accepted.

### Phone – 24/7

- Utility bill: 701-241-1324. Please have your 10 digit utility bill account number & phone number ready. You may speak with a city employee M - F from 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Parking ticket: 1-888-232-9337

### In person

Fargo City Hall  
200 3rd St. N.

Hours: M - F, 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The payment window is located on the 2nd floor. Closed on legal holidays.

## Parking Restrictions Begin Nov. 1

Starting November 1, seasonal night parking restrictions will take effect (City Ordinance 8-1009) to allow for snow removal and critical street maintenance. This will restrict parking on the street between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. Street signs noting the restrictions are located in the affected areas.

### These areas are:

- From 19th Ave. to 13th Ave. S.;
- From the Red River to 25th St. N. and S.;
- Any other area designated by the appropriate signs.

### The restrictions apply on alternate days:

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays: east/west avenues
- Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays: north/south streets

The fee for parking illegally is \$15.00. Free overnight parking is available downtown, visit [www.FargoParking.com](http://www.FargoParking.com).

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## Revised FEMA Floodplain Map Public Meetings

In July 2012, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a revised floodplain map to the City of Fargo. This map is available online at [www.fargofloodinsurance.com](http://www.fargofloodinsurance.com). Select "Revised Floodplain Map" on the left column to view the map.

Fargo residents are encouraged to learn more about the revised map by viewing it online and attending one of two public meetings scheduled. The meetings will include a one hour presentation by FEMA and booths where residents can ask questions about their property.

### Tuesday, September 11

Davies High School Gym  
7150 25th St. S., Fargo  
6 – 9 p.m.

Presentation begins at 6 p.m.

### Wednesday, September 12

Civic Center Arena  
207 4th St. N., Fargo  
6 – 9 p.m.

Presentation begins at 6 p.m.

## Fargo Flood Insurance .com

## Dike East Dog Park Opening Soon!



Fargo's newest dog park will open in early September at Dike East, 100 2nd St. S. The Dog Park offers fenced in areas for large and small dogs and seating for dog owners. The park will be open daily from dawn to dusk, year round, weather and turf conditions permitting. The

Fargo Park District also maintains the Yunker Farm Dog Park at 1257 28th Ave. N. and the Village West Dog Park at 4415 9th Ave. Circle S. Visit [www.fargoparks.com](http://www.fargoparks.com).

### City of Fargo Employment

Find job openings at:

[www.cityoffargo.com/employment](http://www.cityoffargo.com/employment)

# Fargo Expands Recycling Program

## Recycle More Plastics and Cardboards






Residents asked for a broader recycling program in Fargo and we answered! The City of Fargo has expanded the curbside/drop-site recycling program to include plastics with the numbers 1 - 7, and non-corrugated cardboard products such as cereal, shoe and soda boxes. View the chart on the right for a complete description of acceptable items. We are unable to accept styrofoam or plastic bags.

These additions reflect a growing demand by residents to be more eco-friendly. "We were getting calls from residents everyday, asking why they couldn't recycle more of their garbage", said Recycling Coordinator Brady Brunsvold.

In 2011, 81-tons of recyclables were diverted from the landfill. Brunsvold expects the expanded program to divert an additional 15% in 2012. You can learn more about the recycling program, recycling collection days, drop-off locations and more at [www.fargorecycles.com](http://www.fargorecycles.com).



[www.FargoRecycles.com](http://www.FargoRecycles.com)

 <p>Plastics</p>	<p>Clean plastic containers with a recycling # of 1 - 7, such as soda bottles, milk containers, detergent and shampoo bottles, yogurt, vegetable and cottage cheese containers, ice cream pails and margarine tubs. No styrofoam or plastic bags. All plastics may be placed in the same recycling bin.</p>
 <p>Cardboard</p>	<p>Corrugated cardboard boxes, brown grocery bags, beverage containers, shoe boxes, cereal and food boxes, and paperboard. All cardboard products should be flattened and placed together for pickup.</p>
 <p>Glass</p>	<p>Clear, brown and green glass bottles and jars. Combine all colors of glass in the same bin.</p>
 <p>Newspaper/ Magazines</p>	<p>Newspaper, shoppers and anything delivered in the newspaper, including glossy inserts. Magazines, small catalogs and similar printed material with glossy pages.</p>
 <p>Aluminum/ Tin Cans</p>	<p>Aluminum, steel and tin cans.</p>

### 1st Annual Valley Bicycle Summit, September 15

We invite you to attend the 1st Annual Valley Bicycle Summit at Fargo South High School, 1840 15th Ave. S., on Saturday, September 15 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. It will be a day full of opportunities for families and individuals to learn more about taking bicycling skills to the next level. Come for all or part of the day for speakers and demonstrations on how to safely get around town by bicycle.

Don't bike? Hear from local riders on how automobile drivers and bicyclists should interact with each other. The event is free and will include lunch and door prizes. Bringing a bike is optional, but encouraged. For more information and to register, visit [www.ShareTheRoadFargo.com](http://www.ShareTheRoadFargo.com).





## Power Outage: Is Your Food Still Safe to Eat?

During or after a disaster, power outages can happen causing food in your refrigerator or freezer to spoil. Fargo Cass Public Health wants you to know about important food safety guidelines to help you store food safely when dealing with a power outage.



**If the power is out for less than 2 hours,** the food in your refrigerator and freezer will be safe to eat. While the power is out, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep food cold longer.

**If the power is out for longer than 2 hours, follow the guidelines below:**

- Frozen food: A freezer that is half full will hold food safely for up to 24 hours. A full

freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Avoid opening the freezer door.

- Refrigerated food: Pack dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, gravy, and spoilable leftovers into a cooler surrounded by ice. Inexpensive styrofoam coolers are fine for this purpose.
- Use a food thermometer to check the temperature of your food right before you cook or eat it. Discard any perishable foods such as meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, or leftovers that have been above 40° F for two hours or more. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!
- Never taste food or rely on appearance or odor to determine its safety. Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they have been at room temperature too long, bacteria, which cause food-borne illnesses, can grow quickly. Some types of bacteria produce toxins that cannot be destroyed by cooking.
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40° F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.

For more information on food safety, go to [www.FargoCassPublicHealth.com](http://www.FargoCassPublicHealth.com) or call 701-476-6729.

## Disaster Preparedness Materials for All Ages

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activity books available to help teach kids, ages 6-10, about the importance of disaster preparedness and safety. The books follow Rex the mountain lion and his family as they learn how to build an emergency supply kit, create a family emergency plan, and become prepared for many different kinds of unexpected situations.

For adults, there is the free "Are You Prepared?" quarterly e-newsletter from Fargo Cass Public Health and Cass-Fargo Emergency Management. It is filled with tips, emergency preparedness information and educational opportunities.

Contact Fargo Cass Public Health at 701-476-5990 or visit [www.cityoffargo.com/emergencies](http://www.cityoffargo.com/emergencies).

## From the Firehouse

With Fire Marshal Norm Scott

Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13, 2012. This year, the theme is "Have 2 Ways Out". Many people underestimate how fast fire spreads, so they don't take escape planning seriously. The results can be tragic. In 2010, home fires were reported every 85 seconds, killing 2,640 people and injuring 13,350. The reality is, when fire strikes, your home could be engulfed in smoke and flames in just a few minutes. It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and exit quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. What if your first escape route is blocked by smoke or flames? That's just one example of why having two ways out should be a key part of your plan. Visit us online for escape route information at [www.fargofire.com](http://www.fargofire.com).

**Norm Scott**  
Fire Marshal



## Holiday Garbage Collection

### Labor Day Sept. 3 - Week of Sept. 3:

Monday garbage and recycling collections will be on Tuesday; the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, September 3.

### Veteran's Day Nov. 11 - Week of Nov. 12:

Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Monday, November 12.

### Thanksgiving Day Nov. 22 - Week of Nov. 19:

Monday and Friday garbage and recycling collections on schedule; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday collections one day early. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Thursday, November 22.

Visit us online at [www.fargogarbage.com](http://www.fargogarbage.com).

## Compost and Wood Chips Fall Giveaway

The fall dates for the 2012 compost and wood chip giveaway includes one Saturday which is September 8 from 7:15 a.m. to noon, and every Wednesday and Thursday from September 12 to October 4 from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Each household qualifies for one free yard of compost and one free yard of wood chips. The compost and woodchips are located west of the Household Hazardous Waste facility, 606 43 1/2 St. N. The small pile of compost that you can access to fill your own bags or cans is located next to the scale house at the landfill, 4501 7th Ave. N.

## Purchasing Compost and Wood Chips

Before and after the free giveaway, you can purchase compost and wood chips from the city. Wood chips cost \$8/yard; compost is \$10/yard. To inquire about availability of materials, please call the landfill scale house at 282-2489.

## Brush Collection

Curbside brush collection will end for the season on October 31. Collection will resume on May 1. For information, call the Forestry Department at 241-1465.

## Staying Ahead of EAB



The Forestry Department is working on financially responsible ways to diversify street trees to help prepare for the future impact of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Plans include: replacing declining and poor condition ash; working with local utility companies to

replace ash under power lines; and identifying neighborhoods with predominantly ash lined streets and replacing some of the trees (the effects of EAB will be especially devastating in these areas).

Installation costs will be covered by the Forestry Department.

Steps you can take to help minimize EAB's rate of spread and local impacts:

- Leave your firewood at home and buy it when you get there. EAB can be easily spread to new areas by transporting firewood.
- Diversify by planting a mix of trees on your property. Consider planting trees other than ash.

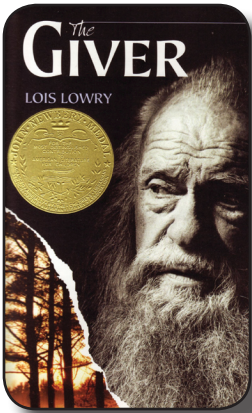
For more information regarding EAB, please contact the Forestry Department at 241-1465.

## Sump Pump

Are you planning on going south this winter? You don't have to worry about your sump pump line freezing if you take advantage of the City of Fargo Seasonal Waiver agreement. The waiver allows you to discharge your sump pump into the sanitary sewer system from October 1 to March 31. The permit fee is \$36 per year and is applied to your water bill at \$3 per month. The waiver application form is available online at [www.cityoffargo.com/sumppumpprogram](http://www.cityoffargo.com/sumppumpprogram) or you may call 701-461-7867 to have a waiver mailed to your home. A by-pass system may be installed after the waiver agreement has been received by our office.

# One Book, One Community

Check-Out *The Giver* Starting October 1



Local libraries are launching an inaugural One Book, One Community project this October. All area residents are invited to take part by reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and participating in a variety of related events. Lowry's Newbery award-winning novel explores themes of control, memory, individuality and diversity, pain and pleasure, and

death. Readers of all ages can take part in the project's events which include a region-wide online photo contest, book discussions, film screenings and more. Copies of "The Giver" will be available at your local library beginning October 1. Visit [www.fmareaonebook.org](http://www.fmareaonebook.org) for a complete line-up of events and related resources. This project is a partnership between Fargo, West Fargo and Moorhead libraries.

## Tech Savvy Job Search Series

Following up on the successful introductory job seekers sessions from earlier this year, the library is offering a 5-part job search series this fall designed to serve the needs of today's tech savvy job seekers. Sessions will be held at the downtown Main Library at 7 p.m.

- **Tech Savvy Job Hunter:** Tuesday, Sept. 18
- **Resume Tips and Trends:** Tuesday, Sept. 25
- **Resume Workshop:** Tuesday, Oct. 2
- **Search Strategies:** Tuesday, Oct. 9
- **Ace the Interview:** Tuesday, Oct. 16

Space is limited; pre-registration is required for these sessions. Register online at [www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org) or contact the Main Library Information Desk at 241-1492 for details.

## Community Baby Shower!

New and expectant parents are invited to the Main Library on Saturday, November 3 between 10 a.m. and noon for a Community Baby Shower! Enjoy cake, crafts, and other fun activities while learning how to start your baby on the road to reading. For details contact the Children's Department at 241-1495.

## "Jazz Into Fall" Free Concert Series

The library's annual fall music series Jazz into Fall, a series of free jazz concerts, starts Sunday, October 7, at the downtown Main Library. Jazz into Fall concert dates are:

- **Sunday, Oct. 7:** Vocalist Andraya Abrego with the Concordia Jazz Trio
- **Sunday, Oct. 14:** Hard Bop Sax Quartet
- **Sunday, Oct. 21:** Dave Ferreira Trio
- **Sunday, Oct. 28:** Jazz Nickel

The series is free and open to the public. For more information, call 241-1472 or visit [www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org).

## Sundogs and Sunflowers Exhibit



What do monster fish, haunted houses, duck decoys and sunflower pie have in common? They all represent folk art and folklore that is part of the rich history of the Northern Great Plains. This fall

the Fargo Public Library will host the Sundogs and Sunflowers exhibition, based on the book *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*, at the downtown Main Library. The exhibit includes 28 full-color photographic panels that provide a sampling from each of the book's 10 chapters. The exhibit will be displayed at the downtown Main Library from October 22 through November 18.

## Hitchcock in Black and White

In September, the library will host a 3-week film series titled Hitchcock in Black and White featuring three Alfred Hitchcock movies. Screenings will start at 2 p.m. on Sundays beginning September 16 with a screening of *Shadow of a Doubt* in the Community Room at the downtown Main Library. Other titles and dates include *Notorious* on September 23 and *Strangers on a Train* on September 30. The film series is aimed at individuals who have an appreciation for and interest in viewing and discussing classic films. Each film screening will be followed by a brief discussion of the movie.



# MATBUS Updates Routes and Map

A newly designed MATBUS map, which includes route/time table changes and new features making it easier to find popular destinations, is now available to riders. Below are just a few of the features that make this map stand out from the rest:

- Fargo and Moorhead routes are now located on the same side of the map with the timetables on the reverse side.
- Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo and Dilworth city limits are now shaded in different colors.
- Logos have been added to popular destinations along the routes.
- Time points along the routes are identified by alphabetical letters that correspond with the timetables.
- More detailed, larger insets have been



added to provide better navigation through congested areas of the map.

- The Ground Transportation Center (GTC) label in the downtown inset lists the route numbers precisely how the vehicles are parked during transfers.
- Each timetable designates the hub, which the route pulses from, in the upper left hand corner: GTC, West Acres, Moorhead Marriott and NDSU's Memorial Union.
- All 'how-to-ride' panels have been updated.
- Evening service bus frequency is indicated on the lower portion of each timetable by outlining the evening times in a black box.

Get your map online at [www.MATBUS.com](http://www.MATBUS.com) or at the GTC, 502 NP Ave., Fargo.

## Commuter Challenge: Are You Up to the Test?

From September 4 - October 30, MATBUS invites you to take the Commuter Challenge. All we ask of you is a commitment to "Give your car a rest on Tuesdays," (or a least once per week) and take a more eco-friendly mode of transportation for eight weeks. You could carpool, bus, walk, bike, skate or rollerblade. A MATBUS/BOB 95 FM/Y-94 water bottle will be given to the first 125 people who sign-up, and other prizes will be given away to those who meet their goal each week. To sign-up, go online to [www.matbus.com](http://www.matbus.com). Weekly encouraging messages will be e-mailed to participants. Save money, save time, reduce traffic, save the environment and win great prizes!

## MATBUS 2011 Annual Report

The 2011 MATBUS Annual Report is now available online at [www.matbus.com](http://www.matbus.com). The report features record ridership and two national awards.

## Try Transit Week: Win Prizes - Ride for Half Price

MATBUS gave over 2.15 million rides in 2011. We invite *you* to ride transit during Try Transit Week, October 22 - 27. During this week, riding MATBUS will be half-price per trip all week (only 75 cents for adults and 40 cents for senior citizens, youth and persons with disabilities)! Our event schedule includes:

- ✓ Half-fare rides on MATBUS all week
- ✓ Drawings to win cool MATBUS neon t-shirts
- ✓ Free MATBUS lanyard to each rider on Tuesday (while supplies last)
- ✓ Free popcorn and refreshments at the GTC on Tuesday
- ✓ Senior citizens ride free on Thursday
- ✓ Ride the evening bus routes and receive a squiggly pen on Friday
- ✓ Youth in K-12th grade ride free on Saturday

FARGO CITY COMMISSION  
200 N. 3RD ST.  
FARGO, ND 58102

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## Low-interest Home Improvement Loan - 3.5%

The Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) loan program currently has a 3.5% interest rate. Now is the perfect time to tackle that home improvement project you've been thinking about. From kitchen to bath, roof to foundation, living room to landscaping, the NRI home improvement loan can help you turn your house into the home of your dreams. Loans are available up to \$50,000 with a 10 year term. To find out if your house is eligible, visit [www.cityoffargo.com/nri](http://www.cityoffargo.com/nri) or call Fargo Planning and Development at 241-1474.

